

SPECIFICATION

A Silicon Ether Compound, a Method for the Preparation thereof and Use thereof

Cross Reference of Related Application

The present application claims priority based on CN 02125224.6, filed on July 17, 2002, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety and for all purposes.

Technical field

The present invention relates to a novel silicon ether compound, a method for the preparation thereof and use thereof in the polymerization of olefins.

Background Art

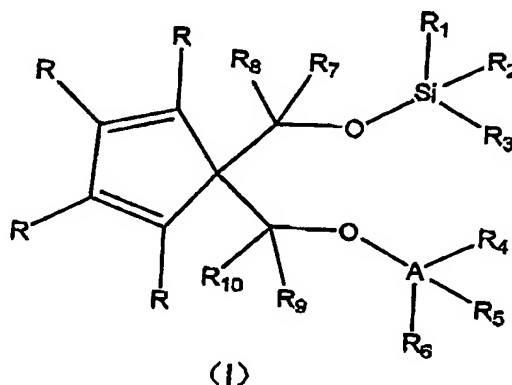
W O 00/63261 discloses external electron donor compounds useful in olefin polymerization, i.e. silicon compounds having a general formula $R^{11}_a R^{12}_b Si(OR^{13})_c$, wherein a and b are integer from 0 to 2, c is integer from 1 to 3, and the sum of a+b+c is 4, R^{11} , R^{12} and R^{13} are independently C_1 - C_{18} hydrocarbyl which optionally contains heteroatom. The preferred are those silicon compounds in which a is 1, b is 1, c is 2, at least one of R^{11} and R^{12} are selected from the group consisting of branched alkyl, alkenyl, alkylene, cycloalkyl and aryl, having from 3 to 10 carbon atoms and containing optionally heteroatom, and R^{13} is C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, especially methyl, for example, cyclohexylmethyldimethoxysilane. The also preferred are those silicon compounds in which a is 0, b is 1, c is 3, R^{12} is branched alkyl or cycloalkyl, containing optionally heteroatom, and R^{13} is methyl, for example, cyclohexyltrimethoxysilane and the like.

It is noted that when c is 1, the silicon compounds having the general formula $R^{11}_a R^{12}_b Si(OR^{13})_c$ are not deemed as good external electron donor compound. In the prior art, γ -trihydrocarbylsilyloxy-ether compounds are never used as external electron donor compounds in olefin polymerization. However, the inventors surprisingly found that γ -trihydrocarbylsilyloxy-ether or -silicon ether compounds exhibit good properties when used as external electron donor compounds in olefin polymerization. 9-hydrocarbyloxymethyl-9-(trihydrocarbylsilyl)oxymethyl-fluorene compounds and 9,9-bis(trihydrocarbylsilyloxymethyl)-fluorene compounds are specific γ -trihydrocarbylsilyloxy-ether or -silicon ether compounds, and hitherto, no literature

reporting them as well as the preparation thereof was found.

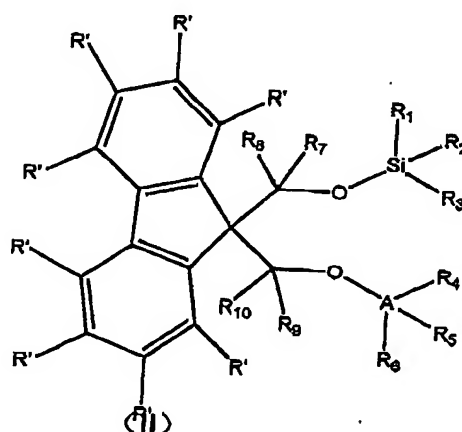
Description the invention

In one aspect, the present invention provides a silicon ether compound having general formula (I):



wherein, R and R₁-R₁₀ groups, which may be identical or different, represent hydrogen, halogen, C₁-C₂₀ linear or branched alkyl, C₃-C₂₀ cycloalkyl, C₆-C₂₀ aryl, C₇-C₂₀ alkaryl or C₇-C₂₀ aralkyl, and two or more R groups can be bonded to each other to form one or more saturated or unsaturated condensed cyclic structures which are optionally substituted by a group having the same meanings with that of R₁, R and R₁-R₁₀ groups optionally contain one or more hetero-atoms replacing carbon atom, hydrogen atom or the both, said hetero-atom is selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen, sulfur, silicon, phosphorus and halogen atom, and A represents carbon atom or silicon atom.

Among the above silicon ether compounds, the preferred are those represented by general formula (II):



wherein, R_1 - R_{10} groups and A have meanings as defined in formula (I), and R' , which may be identical or different, represent hydrogen, halogen, C_1 - C_{20} linear or branched alkyl, C_3 - C_{20} cycloalkyl, C_6 - C_{20} aryl, C_7 - C_{20} alkaryl or C_7 - C_{20} aralkyl. Preferably, A represents carbon atom, R_1 - R_3 , which may be identical or different, represent methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, iso-propyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl or phenyl, R_4 - R_6 , which may be identical or different, represent hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, iso-propyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl or phenyl, and R_7 - R_{10} and R' are hydrogen. More preferably, A represents carbon atom, R_1 and R_2 are methyl, R_3 is methyl or tert-butyl, and R_4 - R_{10} and R' are hydrogen. Alternatively, A represents silicon atom, R_1 - R_6 , which may be identical or different, represent methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, iso-propyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl or phenyl, preferably, R_1 , R_2 , R_4 and R_5 are methyl, R_3 and R_6 are methyl or tert-butyl, and R_7 - R_{10} and R' are hydrogen.

Examples of the silicon ether compound according to the present invention include, but are not limited to,

9-methoxymethyl-9-(trimethylsilyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-methoxymethyl-9-(triethylsilyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-methoxymethyl-9-(triphenylsilyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-methoxymethyl-9-(ethyl-dimethyl-silyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-methoxymethyl-9-(dimethyl-propyl-silyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-methoxymethyl-9-(tert-butyl-dimethyl-silyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-methoxymethyl-9-(dimethyl-phenylethyl-silyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-methoxymethyl-9-(dimethyl-phenyl-silyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-ethoxymethyl-9-(trimethylsilyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-ethoxymethyl-9-(triethylsilyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-ethoxymethyl-9-(triphenylsilyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-ethoxymethyl-9-(ethyl-dimethyl-silyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-ethoxymethyl-9-(dimethyl-propyl-silyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-ethoxymethyl-9-(tert-butyl-dimethyl-silyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-ethoxymethyl-9-(dimethyl-phenylethyl-silyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-ethoxymethyl-9-(dimethyl-phenyl-silyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-n-propoxymethyl-9-(trimethylsilyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-n-propoxymethyl-9-(triethylsilyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-n-propoxymethyl-9-(triphenylsilyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-n-propoxymethyl-9-(ethyl-dimethyl-silyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-n-propoxymethyl-9-(dimethyl-propyl-silyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,

9-n-propoxymethyl-9-(tert-butyl-dimethyl-silyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-n-propoxymethyl-9-(dimethyl-phenylethyl-silyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9-n-propoxymethyl-9-(dimethyl-phenyl-silyl)oxymethyl-fluorene,
 9,9-bis((trimethylsilyl)oxymethyl)fluorene,
 9,9-bis((triethylsilyl)oxymethyl)fluorene,
 9,9-bis((triphenylsilyl)oxymethyl)fluorene,
 9,9-bis((ethyl-dimethyl-silyl)oxymethyl)fluorene,
 9,9-bis((dimethyl-propyl-silyl)oxymethyl)fluorene,
 9,9-bis((tert-butyl-dimethyl-silyl)oxymethyl)fluorene,
 9,9-bis((dimethyl-phenylethyl-silyl)oxymethyl)fluorene,
 9,9-bis((dimethyl-phenyl-silyl)oxymethyl)fluorene,
 2-fluoro-9,9-bis((trimethylsilyl)oxymethyl)fluorene,
 2-fluoro-9,9-bis((triethylsilyl)oxymethyl)fluorene,
 2-fluoro-9,9-bis((triphenylsilyl)oxymethyl)fluorene,
 2-fluoro-9,9-bis((ethyl-dimethyl-silyl)oxymethyl)fluorene,
 2-fluoro-9,9-bis((dimethyl-propyl-silyl)oxymethyl)fluorene,
 2-fluoro-9,9-bis((tert-butyl-dimethyl-silyl)oxymethyl)fluorene,
 2-fluoro-9,9-bis((dimethyl-phenylethyl-silyl)oxymethyl)fluorene,
 2-fluoro-9,9-bis((dimethyl-phenyl-silyl)oxymethyl)fluorene.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a method for the preparation of the silicon ether compounds according to the present invention, comprising a silylation step of reacting a 3-hydrocarbyloxy-propanol compound or a 1,3-propanediol compound with trihydrocarbylsilylating agent in an aprotic inert solvent and, if needed, in the presence of a base, to form corresponding γ -trihydrocarbylsilyloxy-ether compound or 1,3-bis(trihydrocarbylsilyloxy)propane compound. The reaction temperature can be from -20°C to 100°C, preferably from -5°C to room temperature, and the reaction time can be from 1 to 48 hours. For convenience, reaction pressure can be atmospheric pressure.

The silylation reaction can be carried out in an aprotic inert solvent, such as halohydrocarbons, hydrocarbons, ethers and amides. Examples of the suitable solvent include, but are not limited to, dichloromethane, chloroform, benzene, toluene, n-hexane, cyclohexane, petroleum ether, diethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran, tert-butyl methyl ether, and N,N-dimethylformamide. The preferred solvent is dichloromethane.

The trihydrocarbylsilylating agent can be selected from the group consisting of trihydrocarbylsilyl halide and hexahydrocarbyl disilazane, such as trimethylsilyl chloride, triethylsilyl chloride, triphenylsilyl chloride, ethyldimethylsilyl chloride, dimethylpropylsilyl chloride, tert-butyldimethylsilyl chloride, dimethylphenylsilyl chloride, dimethyl-phenylethyl-silyl chloride, and hexamethyl disilazane.

When a trihydrocarbylsilyl halide is used as the trihydrocarbylsilylating agent, the reaction is carried out in the presence of a base, and the raw materials are preferably charged at such amounts that, for the preparation of γ -trihydrocarbylsilyloxy-ether compounds, molar ratio of 3-hydrocarbyloxy-propanol compound : trihydrocarbylsilyl halide : base is in the range of 1 : 1-2 : 1-2, and for the preparation of 1,3-bis(trihydrocarbylsilyloxy)propane compounds, molar ratio of 1,3-propandiol compound : trihydrocarbylsilyl halide : base is in the range of 1 : 2-5 : 2-5. The bases that can be employed in the trihydrocarbylsilylation reaction include inorganic base, for example, Na, K, NaOH, KOH, NaH, KH, CaH_2 , Na_2CO_3 , K_2CO_3 , NH_3 , and organic base, for example, Et_3N , Me_3N , Bu_3N , pyridine, 4-dimethylaminopyridine, imidazole, and mixture thereof. The preferred bases are organic bases, for example, Et_3N , 4-dimethylaminopyridine, imidazole and mixture thereof.

When a hexahydrocarbyl disilazane is used as the trihydrocarbylsilylating agent, the reaction is carried out in the absence of base, and the raw materials are preferably charged at such amounts that, for the preparation of γ -trihydrocarbylsilyloxy-ether compounds, molar ratio of 3-hydrocarbyloxy-propanol compound : hexahydrocarbyl disilazane is in the range of 1 : 0.5-0.8, and for the preparation of 1,3-bis(trihydrocarbylsilyloxy)propane compounds, molar ratio of 1,3-propandiol compound : hexahydrocarbyl disilazane is in the range of 1 : 1-1.6.

The glycols corresponding to the general formula (I) are known in the art or can be synthesized through a method known in the art. For instance, 9,9-bis(hydroxymethyl)fluorene can be prepared from fluorene according to a literature method (Acta Chemica Scandinava 1967, 21, 718). 2-Fluoro-9,9-bis(hydroxymethyl)fluorene can be prepared from 2-fluorofluorene (see Chem. and Ind. 1961, 179) by the same method.

In one embodiment of the present invention, 9-hydrocarbyloxymethyl-9-trihydrocarbylsilyloxymethyl-fluorene compounds, which are

included in the compounds of general formula (I) according to the present invention, can be prepared by mono-etherifying a glycols compound corresponding to the general formula (II) as the starting material with a haloalkane, and then reacting the resultant 9-hydrocarbyloxymethyl-9-hydroxymethyl-fluorene compound with a trihydrocarbylsilylating agent. Specifically, the preparation comprises the steps of:

(a) mono-etherification of the glycols compound: the diol, 9,9-bis(hydroxymethyl)fluorene, is mono-etherified with a haloalkane in the presence of a base, to form 9-hydrocarbyloxymethyl-9-hydroxymethyl-fluorene, wherein a solvent selected from the group consisting of tetrahydrofuran, dimethyl sulfoxide, diethyl ether, N,N-dimethylformamide, aliphatic hydrocarbons, such as, pentane, hexane, heptane, and aromatic hydrocarbons, such as, benzene, and toluene, can be used, wherein the base used can be hydrides, hydroxides, or carbonates of alkali metal or alkali earth metal, for example, NaH, KH, CaH₂, NaOH, KOH, Ca(OH)₂, Na₂(CO₃), K₂(CO₃), and the like, among them, NaH and NaOH are preferable, and are preferably added gradually into the reaction mixture after adding the diol, haloalkane and solvent, wherein the molar ratio of the base to the diol is in the range of 0.5-1.5:1, preferably 0.8-1.2:1, and the molar ratio of the haloalkane to the diol is in the range of 1-10:1, preferably 2.5-4:1; and wherein reaction temperature is in the range from -10°C to 100°C, reaction pressure is atmospheric pressure, and reaction time is in the range from 1 to 48 hours;

(b) silylation of the monoether compound: monoether compound, 9-hydrocarbyloxymethyl-9-hydroxymethyl-fluorene, obtained in the step (a) is reacted with a trihydrocarbylsilylating agent at a temperature from -20°C to 100°C, preferably from -5°C to room temperature, under atmospheric pressure, to form 9-hydrocarbyloxymethyl-9-trihydrocarbylsilyloxymethyl-fluorene, wherein the solvent, trihydrocarbylsilylating agent and, if needed, the base used as well as their amounts are same as described above for silylation step of the method according to the present invention.

In another embodiment of the present invention, 9,9-bis(trihydrocarbylsilyloxymethyl)fluorene compounds, which are included in the compounds of general formula (I) according to the present invention, can be prepared by reacting a diol corresponding to the general formula (II), for example, 9,9-bis(hydroxymethyl)fluorene with a trihydrocarbylsilylating agent.

In a further aspect, the present invention relates to a process for polymerization of olefins, wherein a silicon ether compound of general formula (I) according to the invention is used as external electron donor compound. In a preferable embodiment, said process is homopolymerization or copolymerization of propylene. Processes for polymerization of olefins and application mode and amount of external electron donor compounds therein are well known in the art.

The compounds according to the present invention as well as intermediates thereof can be identified by mass-spectrum (MS), proton nuclear magnetic resonance (^1H NMR), and infrared (IR) spectrum. The present invention aims to develop novel external electron donor compounds useful in olefin polymerization. Conventionally, trihydrocarbyl-hydrocarbyloxy-silanes are considered to be bad external electron donor compounds in olefin polymerization, and unsuitable for enhancing isotacticity of polyolefin products. However, the inventors have found that when a silicon ether compound according to the present invention is used in olefin polymerization replacing current external electron donor compound like cyclohexyl-methyl-dimethoxy-silane, catalyst remains its high catalytic activity, and exhibits better response to hydrogen, and the polypropylene obtained remains its isotacticity. These results indicate that the silicon ether compounds according to the present invention are a class of highly effective external electron donor compounds.

Embodiments of the Invention

The following examples further describe the invention, but do not make limitation to the invention in any way.

Example 1 Preparation of 9-methoxymethyl-9-hydroxymethyl-fluorene

Under nitrogen atmosphere and anhydrous condition, to a reactor were added in succession 80 ml of tetrahydrofuran, 22.6 g (0.1mol) of 9,9-bis(hydroxymethyl)fluorene and 57 g (0.4mol) of iodomethane. After the reaction mixture was admixed homogeneously by stirring, 4.6 g of 52% NaH in mineral oil (0.1mol) was added batch-wise over 2 hours at room temperature. Upon completing the addition, the reaction mixture was stirred for further 2 hours. The unreacted iodomethane was recovered by

distillation. The remainder was diluted with 100 ml of water, and extracted twice using 100 ml of diethyl ether for each time. The combined diethyl ether extract was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After drying, the ether solution was evaporated to dry to give 22.8 g of crude. The crude was purified through column chromatography to give 14.9g of 9-methoxymethyl-9-hydroxymethyl-fluorene (yield 62%).

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3/TMS) δ (ppm): 1.70 (s, 1H, OH), 3.40 (s, 3H, OCH_3), 3.71 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$), 3.96 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$), 7.31 (t, 2H, ArH), 7.41 (t, 2H, ArH), 7.65 (d, 2H, ArH), 7.75 (d, 2H, ArH).

Example 2 Preparation of 9-methoxymethyl-9-trimethylsilyloxymethyl-fluorene

1g of 9-methoxymethyl-9-hydroxymethyl-fluorene (4.2mmol) was dissolved in 20 ml of dichloromethane. The solution was cooled in ice-water bath, and 0.7 ml of triethyl amine (5mmol) was added thereto. After stirring for 5 minutes, 0.6 ml of trimethylsilyl chloride (4.6mmol) was added drop-wise, and the mixture was stirred for further 2 hours, followed by stirring at room temperature for 1 hour. The reaction mixture was washed with water, and the organic layer separated was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After filtration, the filtrate was evaporated to give 1.41g of concentrate (yield 86%). $\text{MS}(\text{EI})m/e: 312(\text{M}^+)$.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3/TMS) δ (ppm): 0.15 (s, 9H, CH_3), 3.42 (s, 3H, $-\text{OCH}_3$), 3.74 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$), 3.82 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$), 7.36 (t, 2H, ArH), 7.44 (t, 2H, ArH), 7.70 (d, 2H, ArH), 7.80 (d, 2H, ArH).

Example 3 Preparation of 9,9-bis(trimethylsilyloxymethyl)fluorene

1g of 9,9-bis(hydroxymethyl)fluorene (4.4mmol) was admixed with 20 ml of dichloromethane. The mixture was cooled in ice-water bath, and 1.9 ml of triethyl amine (13.2mmol) was added thereto. Then 1.4 ml of trimethylsilyl chloride (11mmol) was added drop-wise, and the mixture was stirred in ice-water bath for further 2 hours. The reaction mixture was washed with water, and the organic layer separated was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After filtration, the filtrate was evaporated to give 1.14g of concentrate (yield 88%). $\text{MS}(\text{EI}) m/e: 370(\text{M}^+)$.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl_3/TMS) δ (ppm): 0.08 (s, 18H, CH_3), 3.77 (s, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$), 7.26 (t, 2H, ArH), 7.38 (t, 2H, ArH), 7.62 (d, 2H, ArH), 7.72 (d, 2H, ArH).

Example 4 Preparation of 9-methoxymethyl-9-(ethyldimethylsilyl)oxymethyl-fluorene

1g of 9-methoxymethyl-9-hydroxymethyl-fluorene (4.2mmol) was dissolved in 20 ml of dichloromethane. The solution was cooled in ice-water bath, and 0.75 ml of triethyl amine (5.4mmol) was added thereto. After stirring for 5 minutes, 0.64 ml of ethyldimethylsilyl chloride (4.8mmol) was added drop-wise, and the mixture was stirred for further 2 hours, followed by stirring at room temperature for 1 hour. The reaction mixture was washed with water, and the organic layer separated was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After filtration, the filtrate was evaporated to give 1.19g of concentrate (yield 87.6%).

^1H NMR (CDCl_3/TMS) δ (ppm) : 0.04 (s, 6H, CH_3) , 0.61 (q, 2H, CH_2) , 0.93(t, 3H, CH_3), 3.33 (s, 3H, OCH_3) , 3.66 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$) , 3.75 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$) , 7.25 (t, 2H, ArH) , 7.33 (t, 2H, ArH) , 7.65 (d, 2H, ArH) , 7.74 (d, 2H, ArH) .

Example 5 Preparation of 9-methoxymethyl-9-(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxymethyl-fluorene

1g of 9-methoxymethyl-9-hydroxymethyl-fluorene (4.2mmol) was dissolved in 10 ml of N,N-dimethyl formamide, and 0.14g of imidazole was added thereto. The mixture was cooled in ice-water bath, and 0.87 ml of triethyl amine (6.2mmol) was added thereto. After stirring for 5 minutes, 0.88 g of tert-butyldimethylsilyl chloride (5.8mmol) in 10 ml of N,N-dimethyl formamide was added drop-wise, and the mixture was stirred for further 2 hours, followed by stirring at room temperature for 1 hour. The reaction mixture was diluted with 10 ml of water, and extracted twice using 20 ml of dichloromethane for each time. The combined dichloromethane extract was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After filtration, the filtrate was evaporated to give 1.28g of concentrate (yield 87.6%).

^1H NMR (CDCl_3/TMS) δ (ppm) : 0.03 (s, 6H, CH_3) , 0.95(s, 9H, CH_3), 3.36 (s, 3H, OCH_3) , 3.68 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$) , 3.78 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$) , 7.30 (t, 2H, ArH) , 7.39 (t, 2H, ArH) , 7.67 (d, 2H, ArH) , 7.76 (d, 2H, ArH) .

Example 6 Preparation of 9-methoxymethyl-9-(dimethylphenylsilyl)oxymethyl-fluorene

1g of 9-methoxymethyl-9-hydroxymethyl-fluorene (4.2mmol) was dissolved in 20 ml of dichloromethane. The solution was cooled in ice-water bath, and 1 ml of triethyl amine (7mmol) was added thereto. After stirring for 5 minutes, 1 ml of dimethylphenylsilyl chloride (6.2mmol) was added drop-wise, and the mixture was stirred for further 2 hours, followed by stirring at room temperature for 1 hour. The reaction mixture was washed with water, and the organic layer separated was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After

filtration, the filtrate was concentrated, and the remainder was purified through column chromatography to give 1.44g of concentrate (yield 92.4%).

^1H NMR (CDCl_3/TMS) δ (ppm): 0.32(s, 6H, CH_3), 3.31(s, 3H, OCH_3), 3.68(s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$), 3.81(s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$), 7.25(t, 2H, ArH), 7.35(m, 5H, ArH), 7.52(t, 2H, ArH), 7.61(d, 2H, ArH), 7.71(d, 2H, ArH).

Example 7 Preparation of 9-methoxymethyl-9-triethylsilyloxymethyl-fluorene

1g of 9-methoxymethyl-9-hydroxymethyl-fluorene (4.2mmol) was dissolved in 20 ml of dichloromethane. The solution was cooled in ice-water bath, and 0.87 ml of triethyl amine (6.2mmol) was added thereto. After stirring for 5 minutes, 0.91 ml of triethylsilyl chloride (5.4mmol) was added drop-wise, and the mixture was stirred for further 2 hours, followed by stirring at room temperature for 1 hour. The reaction mixture was washed with water, and the organic layer separated was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After filtration, the filtrate was evaporated to give 1.24g of concentrate (yield 84%).

^1H NMR (CDCl_3/TMS) δ (ppm) : 0.62 (q, 6H, CH_2) , 0.95(t, 9H, CH_3), 3.36 (s, 3H, OCH_3) , 3.70 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$) , 3.79 (s, 2H, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$) , 7.27 (t, 2H, ArH) , 7.40 (t, 2H, ArH) , 7.68 (d, 2H, ArH) , 7.77 (d, 2H, ArH) .

Example 8 Preparation of 9,9-bis(ethyltrimethylsilyloxymethyl)fluorene

1g of 9,9-bis(hydroxymethyl)fluorene (4.4mmol) was dissolved in 20 ml of dichloromethane. The solution was cooled with ice-water bath, and 1.9 ml of triethyl amine (13.5mmol) was added thereto. Then 1.6 ml of ethyltrimethylsilyl chloride (11.4mmol) was added drop-wise, and the mixture was stirred in ice-water bath for further 2 hours. The reaction mixture was washed with water, and the organic layer separated was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After filtration, the filtrate was evaporated to give 1.41g of concentrate (yield 80%).

^1H NMR (CDCl_3/TMS) δ (ppm) : 0.00 (s, 12H, CH_3) , 0.52 (q, 4H, CH_2) , 0.88 (t, 6H, CH_3) , 3.74 (s, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$) , 7.21 (t, 2H, ArH) , 7.32 (t, 2H, ArH) , 7.59 (d, 2H, ArH) , 7.67 (d, 2H, ArH) .

Example 9 Preparation of 9,9-bis((tert-butyltrimethylsilyl)oxymethyl)fluorene

1g of 9,9-bis(hydroxymethyl)fluorene (4.4mmol) was admixed with 10 ml of

N,N-dimethyl formamide, and 0.30g of imidazole (4.4mmol) was added thereto. The mixture was cooled in ice-water bath, and 2.1 ml of triethyl amine (15mmol) was added thereto. After stirring for 5 minutes, 1.86 g of tert-butyldimethylsilyl chloride (12.4mmol) in 10 ml of N,N-dimethyl formamide was added drop-wise, and the mixture was stirred in ice-water bath for further 4 hours. The reaction mixture was diluted with 10 ml of water, and extracted twice using 20 ml of dichloromethane for each time. The combined dichloromethane extract was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After filtration, the filtrate was evaporated to dry to give 1.73g of concentrate (yield 86%). 1g of white crystal was obtained by recrystallization from n-hexane.

^1H NMR (CDCl_3/TMS) δ (ppm) : 0.00 (s, 12H, CH_3) , 0.92 (s, 18H, CH_3) , 3.82 (s, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$) , 7.26 (t, 2H, ArH) , 7.36 (t, 2H, ArH) , 7.65 (d, 2H, ArH) , 7.71 (d, 2H, ArH) .

Example 10 Preparation of 9,9-bis(triethylsilyloxymethyl)fluorene

1g of 9,9-bis(hydroxymethyl)fluorene (4.4mmol) was admixed with 20 ml of dichloromethane. The mixture was cooled in ice-water bath, and 1.9 ml of triethyl amine (13.3mmol) was added thereto. Then 1.85 ml of triethylsilyl chloride (11.1mmol) was added drop-wise, and the mixture was stirred in ice-water bath for further 2 hours. The reaction mixture was washed with water, and the organic layer separated was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After filtration, the filtrate was evaporated to give 1.75g of concentrate (yield 87.1%).

^1H NMR (CDCl_3/TMS) δ (ppm) : 0.56 (q, 12H, CH_2) , 0.92 (t, 18H, CH_3) , 3.83 (s, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$) , 7.24 (t, 2H, ArH) , 7.36 (t, 2H, ArH) , 7.63 (d, 2H, ArH) , 7.71 (d, 2H, ArH) .

Example 11 Preparation of 9,9-bis(dimethylphenylsilyloxymethyl)fluorene

1g of 9,9-bis(hydroxymethyl)fluorene (4.4mmol) was admixed with 20 ml of dichloromethane. The mixture was cooled with ice-water bath, and 2.1 ml of triethyl amine (15mmol) was added thereto. Then 2.1 ml of dimethylphenylsilyl chloride (13.3mmol) was added drop-wise, and the mixture was stirred in ice-water bath for further 2 hours. The reaction mixture was washed with water, and the organic layer separated was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. After filtration, the filtrate was evaporated to give 1.93g of concentrate (yield 88.2%).

^1H NMR (CDCl_3/TMS) δ (ppm) : 0.33 (s, 12H, CH_3) , 3.88 (s, 4H, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$) , 7.25 (t, 2H, ArH) , 7.35 (m, 8H, ArH) , 7.51 (d, 4H, ArH) , 7.61 (d, 2H, ArH) , 7.71 (d, 2H, ArH) .

Preparation of the solid catalyst components containing titanium

To a reactor which was completely replaced with high pure N_2 were added successively 4.8g of magnesium chloride, 95ml of toluene, 4ml of epoxy chloropropane, and 12.5ml of tributyl phosphate. The mixture was heated to 50°C with stirring and held at the temperature for 2.5 hours to dissolve the solid completely, then 1.4g of phthalic anhydride was added thereto and the mixture was held at the temperature for further 1 hour. The solution was cooled to below -25°C and 56ml of TiCl_4 was added drop-wise over 1 hour, then the reaction was heated slowly to 80°C . Solid was precipitated gradually during the heating. To the system was added 6mmol of di-n-butyl phthalate, and the reaction was held at the temperature with stirring for further 1 hour. After removing the supernatant, to the residue was added 70ml of toluene and the supernatant was removed again after mixing completely. The washing procedure was repeated twice. The resulting solid precipitate was treated with 60ml of toluene and 40ml of TiCl_4 at 100°C for 2 hours, and after removing the supernatant, the residue was treated with 60ml toluene and 40ml TiCl_4 at 100°C for 2 hours again. After removing the supernatant, the residue was washed with 60ml of toluene under boiling state for three times, 60ml of hexane under boiling state for two times, 60ml of hexane at normal temperature for two times to yield the solid catalyst component containing titanium.

Propylene polymerization experiments

To a 5L stainless steel autoclave, which had been replaced with propylene gas completely, were added 2.5mmol of AlEt_3 , 0.1mmol of silicon ether compounds prepared in above examples, 10mg of the solid catalyst component containing titanium prepared above, and 0.18MPa hydrogen, followed by introduction of 2.3L liquid propylene. The reactor was heated to 70°C , and the polymerization was performed at that temperature and autogenous pressure for 2 hours. After the temperature was reduced and the pressure was relieved, PP resin powder was removed. Polymerization results were summarized in Table 1.

Table 1 Polymerization Results

No.	Silicon Ether Compound	Polymerization activity (kgPP/gcat · h)	isotacticity (%)	MI
1	Example 2 9-methoxymethyl-9-trimethylsilyloxymethyl-fluorene	30.6	96.8	4.02
2	Example 3 9,9-bis(trimethylsilyloxymethyl)fluorene	25.1	96.4	4.32
3	Example 5 9-methoxymethyl-9-tert-butyl dimethylsilyloxymethyl-fluorene	27.8	98.1	3.15
4	Example 7 9-methoxymethyl-9-triethylsilyloxymethyl-fluorene	29.7	97.8	2.37
5	Example 6 9-methoxymethyl-9-dimethylphenylsilyloxymethyl-fluorene	24.0	91.5	2.95

Comparison of the polymerization under different hydrogen partial pressure

The melt index of the polymers, which were obtained under same propylene polymerization conditions as described above except that in one group, the amount of hydrogen added is changed to 0.40MPa, was compared in Table 2.

Table 2

Example	External Electron donor	H ₂ (MPa)	Polymerization Activity (kgPP/gcat · h)	MI
Example 2	9-methoxymethyl-9-trimethylsilyloxymethyl-fluorene	0.18	30.6	4.02
Example 2	9-methoxymethyl-9-trimethylsilyloxymethyl-fluorene	0.40	27.8	16.20
Comparative Example 1	cyclohexylmethyldimethoxysilane	0.18	32.0	3.0
Comparative Example 1	cyclohexylmethyldimethoxysilane	0.40	40.0	7.5

It can be seen from the results shown in Table 2 that when used as external electron donor component of olefin polymerization catalyst, under same amount of hydrogen added, the silicon ether compound according to the present invention gives a polymer having higher melt index compared with the silane compound commonly used in the prior art, and as the amount of the hydrogen added increases, the increase of melt index of the polymers obtained under the present invention is more notable. This property will facilitate the development of different grades of polymer.

Comparative Example 2

Preparation of trimethyl-cyclohexyloxy-silane

Trimethyl-cyclohexyloxy-silane was prepared according to the same procedure of Example 2, except that the raw materials were changed as cyclohexanol and trimethylsilyl chloride.

Propylene polymerization experiment was carried out according to the aforementioned polymerization procedure with trimethyl-cyclohexyloxy-silane being used as external electron donor. The resulting polymer adhered to the reactor, and the experiment could not be continued.